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THE WORLD'S BEST NEWS & FACTS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

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in Italy
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Enter your
photos of
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Making sense of the world



THE WEEK Junior

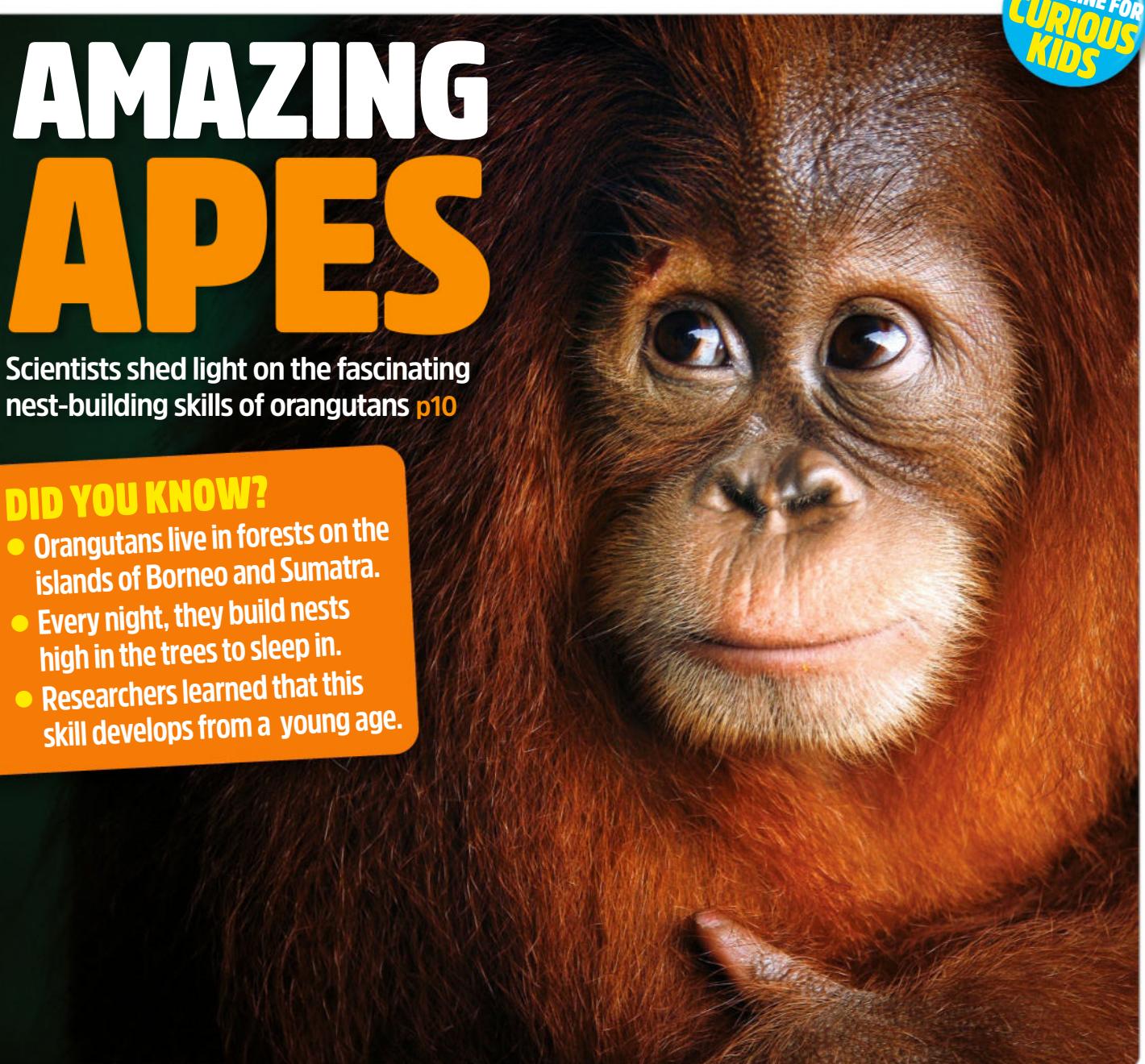
THE BEST
MAGAZINE FOR
CURIOS KIDS

AMAZING APES

Scientists shed light on the fascinating
nest-building skills of orangutans p10

DID YOU KNOW?

- Orangutans live in forests on the islands of Borneo and Sumatra.
- Every night, they build nests high in the trees to sleep in.
- Researchers learned that this skill develops from a young age.





This week's big news

DID YOU KNOW?

The G7 was founded in the early 1970s by US Treasury Secretary George Shultz.



World leaders
at the G7 summit

Comedians visit the Pope



Jimmy Fallon (left)
and Pope Francis

On June 14, Pope Francis hosted 105 comedians from 15 countries at the Vatican in Italy. US comedians included Jimmy Fallon, Conan O'Brien, Chris Rock, Tig Notaro, and Whoopi Goldberg. He thanked them for providing humor in difficult times, which gets people to "think critically by making them laugh and smile."

World leaders meet in Italy

World leaders gathered in Italy from June 13–15 for the annual Group of Seven (G7) summit. The members of the organization are the US, the UK, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, and Japan. They were joined by representatives of the European Union (EU, a group of 27 nations) and leaders from 10 other countries, including India, Kenya, Brazil, Argentina, Jordan, and Turkey.

What is the G7?

The G7 is made up of the democratic nations with the world's largest economies. Each year, a different country hosts the meeting, where members and guests strengthen their relationships and pursue common ground on global affairs. They address issues such as the economy, trade, war, climate change, migration, healthcare, human rights, and gender equality.

What happened at this year's meeting?

The most pressing topic was helping Ukraine defend itself in the war against Russia that began in 2022. G7 nations agreed to loan Ukraine about \$50 billion to buy weapons and rebuild its infrastructure (underlying systems, such as roads and bridges). Most of the

money will come from Russian funds that the US and European nations "froze" to punish Russia for invading Ukraine. The US also committed to a 10-year security agreement to support Ukraine, which includes military training and weapons. The G7 also addressed the war between Israel and Hamas that has been fought in Gaza since October 2023. The leaders called for a ceasefire, the release of hostages held by Hamas, and more humanitarian aid for Palestinian people living in Gaza.

What else was discussed?

G7 leaders talked about global migration and China's role in international affairs.

They committed to taking steps to address climate change, including phasing out coal power. Member nations also agreed to invest \$20 billion in programs to empower women.

The topic of artificial intelligence (AI, computer technology that allows a machine to imitate human intelligence) was addressed by Pope Francis, the first leader of the worldwide Catholic Church to attend a G7 meeting. He urged leaders to ensure that AI is centered on improving people's lives.



Volodymyr
Zelensky

What else is happening in Europe?

French President Emmanuel Macron attended the summit days after making a surprise announcement at home. On June 9, he dissolved part of France's parliament (similar to the US Congress) and called for new elections. He did this in response to the EU elections, held from June 6–9 to elect new members of the EU parliament. The results showed that voters no longer support the policies and current leadership of several European countries, including France. The French president said he called for a new election because it is important to "ask the French again to clarify their choice and show them that we have heard them."

How did people react?

US President Joe Biden said the G7 sent a clear signal to Russian President Vladimir Putin that support for Ukraine is strong. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said the security agreement with the US made for a "truly historic day." Putin called the plan to use frozen Russian assets "theft" and promised that it "will not go unpunished." While many people applauded the G7's work, others were critical. In particular, environmental groups said the leaders' commitment to slowing climate change was not strong enough.

This week's big news



Wild horses return to Kazakhstan

On June 6, seven Przewalski's horses were released in Kazakhstan, marking the first time in more than 200 years that the species has roamed the grasslands there. Native to Central Asia, the species was declared extinct in the wild in the 1960s. Conservation experts bred the horses in captivity in Germany and the Czech Republic before transporting them by plane to Asia.

Przewalski's horses are short and muscular. They lived in Asia for thousands of years but died out in the 1800s due to land development and human activity. Animal experts began raising the horses in captivity and, in 2011, started releasing them into the wild in Mongolia and China. There are currently about 1,500 of the animals there. About 1,000 more live in captivity.

These are the first of the species to be reintroduced in Kazakhstan, where experts said the horses have already begun mating and exploring. They plan to bring at least 40 horses there over five years to help restore the local ecosystem (group of plants and animals that affect each other).



A Przewalski's horse

SPECIAL SITES
The wrecks of Ernest Shackleton's ships Endurance and Quest are in protected waters and are not allowed to be disturbed.



The Quest in 1930 and Ernest Shackleton (above)

Historic shipwreck is found

The wreckage of the last ship of famous explorer Ernest Shackleton has been discovered, 62 years after it went missing. The ship, named the Quest, was found 15 miles off the coast of Canada by an international team led by the Royal Canadian Geographical Society (RCGS).

Ernest Shackleton (1874–1922) was a British explorer who led three expeditions to Antarctica in the early 1900s. On his most well-known mission, his ship, the Endurance, got stuck in the ice and sank in 1914. Shackleton kept his crew alive for 22 months until they were rescued.

In 1921, Shackleton set out on the Quest, which had been built in 1917, to sail around Antarctica. A few months into the journey, however, he died of a heart attack aboard the ship, at age 47. After his death, the Quest was sold and

used in several expeditions. It struck ice and sank in 1962. Everyone on board survived.

The RCGS was inspired to search for the Quest after the wreck of the Endurance was found in 2022. The Quest team consisted of ocean experts and historians from Canada, the US, the UK, and Norway. Using ship logs, historical maps, and weather data, they found the ship 1,280 feet underwater, about 1.5 miles from its last known position. It was mostly intact. Next, they will photograph the wreck and its artifacts using remotely operated underwater vehicles.

Alexandra Shackleton, the explorer's granddaughter, was thrilled to learn that the Quest had been found. "For me, this represents the last discovery in the Shackleton story," she said. "It completes the circle."

IT'S AN AMAZING WEEK FOR...

A BIG BIRTHDAY

Donald Duck, the short-tempered but lovable Disney character who speaks in a language all his own, turned 90. Originally created as a minor character, he was so popular that animators gave him star status. "Donald is the pride and joy of our studio," Walt Disney once said.



HELPING BEES

An environmental group in Colorado is giving away 100,000 seed packets to help declining bee populations. Great Outdoors Colorado is asking citizens to plant the "Wilderflower" seeds—named after their mascot, Wilder—which will grow into native flowers for pollinators.

THE TALLEST GOOD BOY

A 3-year-old Great Dane named Kevin is officially the world's tallest male dog. Kevin, who is named after the main character in the movie *Home Alone*, stands 3 feet, 2 inches tall at his shoulders. Described by his owners as a "gentle giant," Kevin eats six to 10 cups of food a day and loves to sit on people's laps for a snuggle.



Kevin standing tall



National news



WORD ORIGIN
Florida's original Spanish name is La Florida, which means "place of flowers."

Florida fact file



- **CAPITAL:** Tallahassee
- **POPULATION:** 21.5 million
- **HISTORY:** Became the 27th US state on March 3, 1845
- **STATE FLOWER:** Orange blossom
- **STATE BIRD:** Mockingbird
- **GEOGRAPHY:** Includes 45 ecosystems and 1,200 miles of coastline

Rainstorms batter South Florida

Four days of record rainfall brought nearly two feet of precipitation to some areas of South Florida. The storms caused widespread flooding and required authorities to conduct hundreds of rescue missions to bring people to safety.

What happened?

Beginning on June 11, rainstorms triggered flash flood warnings for more than 8 million residents. Big Cypress National Preserve Headquarters recorded the most precipitation, logging nearly 28 inches. The rain caused flooding that damaged at least 100 homes and more than 600 vehicles. Many drivers abandoned their cars after stalling in floodwaters, while others waited on top of their vehicles to be rescued. The weather forced

the temporary closure of Interstate 95, a major highway. Two people died, and two others were injured in a weather-related vehicle crash.

What caused the flooding?

The storm was the result of two weather systems, one off the southeastern coast and the other from the Caribbean. When they came together, they created a funnel of moisture, said Alex DaSilva, AccuWeather's lead hurricane forecaster. Meteorologists said the rise in sea levels caused by climate change also worsened the storm's effects by pushing tides higher and further inland. Paved roads and surfaces in cities also led to more flooding because there were fewer areas for rainwater drainage.

What was the immediate response?

Florida Governor Ron DeSantis declared a state of emergency in five counties to provide help to those areas. Emergency officials responded to more than 250 calls for rescues. In Hallandale Beach, crews conducted 26 rescues, some by boat. The city of Miami distributed sandbags to help residents block floodwaters. The American Red Cross opened a shelter in North Miami to house people who had to leave their homes.

What will happen next?

City officials will clear roads of water and debris so they can be reopened. People will return to their homes and businesses to assess flood damage and work with crews to repair and rebuild them.



WORD OF THE WEEK

SWEAR

Today we think of swearing as using strong language, but it can also mean making a solemn oath or declaration. "Swear" shares its history with "answer," which originally meant to "swear back," by making a solemn promise in response to a question.



THE WEEK IN HISTORY

June 23, 1926

The first SAT exam is administered

On June 23, 1926, the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT), a test many high school students take as part of applying to college, was administered for the first time. More than 8,000 students in more than 353 locations were quizzed in math, reading, and other subjects. The test was based on an exam US Army soldiers took during World War I (1914–1918). In 2023, nearly 2 million students took the SAT.



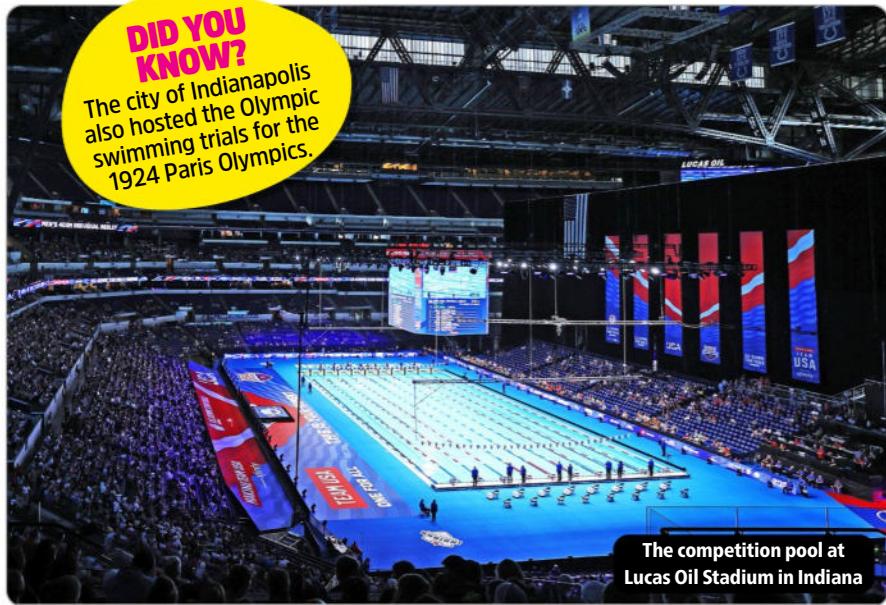
National news



Hunter Biden

Verdict in trial of President's son

A verdict in the trial of Hunter Biden, son of President Joe Biden, was announced on June 11. He was found guilty of three charges related to lying on a form to buy a gun in 2018. This is the first time a child of a current President has been convicted of a crime. A date for the sentencing (punishment) has not been set, and Biden is expected to appeal the verdict. The President said he respects the ruling and will not use his power to pardon his son.



Top theater prizes awarded

The 77th annual Tony Awards were presented at Lincoln Center in New York City on June 16. *The Outsiders*, based on the novel of the same name, won the award for best musical, and *Stereophonic* won for best play. Maleah Jai Moon, age 21, was named best actress in a musical for her Broadway debut in Alicia Keys' *Hell's Kitchen*, playing "a 17-year-old on the cusp of a dream," she said.



The station

Subway stop to be renamed

State lawmakers have passed a bill to change the name of a New York City subway stop from the Christopher Street Station to the Christopher Street–Stonewall National Monument Station. The change honors the Stonewall Uprising, a 1969 event near the station that marked a turning point in the movement for LGBTQ+ rights. Governor Kathy Hochul is expected to sign the bill into law.

Olympic Trials held in NFL stadium

The US Olympic Team Trials in swimming are taking place at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis, Indiana, which is the home of the National Football League's Indianapolis Colts, from June 15 through June 23. This is the first time the trials for swimming, which will determine the swimmers who will represent the US at the Paris Olympics later this summer, are being held in a football stadium.

On the first night of competition, an all-time attendance record for an indoor swim meet was set, with 20,689 people present. The stadium can hold about 30,000 swimming spectators, which is more than double the capacity of the trials' previous location in Nebraska.

The swimming facility consists of a 50-meter competition pool with 10 swimming lanes, plus warm-up pools. They were constructed above ground with a deck around them to make them look like they were built into the ground. Two

million gallons of water from a nearby river was cleaned, chlorinated, and brought into the stadium to fill the pools. A 50-foot-high video screen above the competition pool shows footage of the pool deck and reports results.

"I've never seen anything like this," said Rowdy Gaines, a former US swimming gold medalist and an NBC swimming analyst, of the stadium's transformation. "It's magical."

Of the approximately 1,000 swimmers competing at the trials, 26 men and 26 women will make the Olympic team. For most events, swimmers who place first or second will automatically qualify for the team in that event.

Highly decorated swimmer Katie Ledecky secured her spot on the US Olympic team on June 15 when she finished first in the 400 freestyle, becoming the ninth swimmer in US history to qualify for four Olympics. "It's special," Ledecky said. "I feel like I enjoy this more and more each year."



Katie Ledecky

THE WEEK'S SILLIEST HEADLINE

"Truck carrying 40K pounds of strawberries overturns, creating sticky traffic jam" Fox News

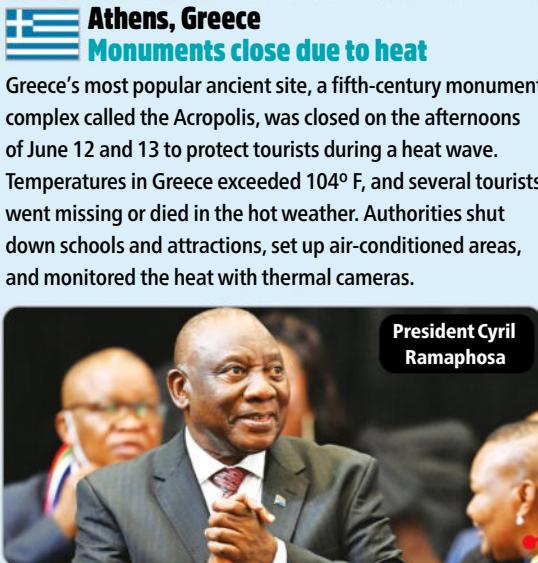




Around the world



The Parthenon temple was closed.



South Africa President is re-elected

President Cyril Ramaphosa has been elected to a second term. His party, the African National Congress (ANC), needed more than 50% of the vote in South Africa's recent election to win a majority in parliament (similar to Congress), but it received 40%. The ANC agreed to share power with four other political parties in a "unity government." The new assembly then voted for Ramaphosa to be president.



A view in Spain

European Union Landmark nature law passed

The European Union (EU, a group of 27 nations) passed a law requiring its member countries to restore natural habitats such as forests, grasslands, rivers, and lakes. More than 80% of the EU's natural environment is currently in poor condition. The new law requires EU nations to restore 20% of their land and sea areas by 2030 and nearly all habitats in need by 2050.

Bürgenstock, Switzerland Peace summit takes place

On June 15 and 16, world leaders and diplomats attended a meeting with a goal of ending Russia's war in Ukraine. More than 80 countries signed an official statement recognizing Ukraine's territorial integrity (respect for its borders and right not to be invaded). Many hoped this could be a foundation for future peace agreements with Russia.



Leaders at the summit



Singapore Crash causes oil spill

Authorities are working to clean up a major oil spill along the southern coast of Singapore. More than 400 tons of liquid fuel were released into the sea after two ships collided on June 14. In response, swimming and other activities were temporarily banned on Sentosa, an island off Singapore's coast. No major damage to wildlife has been reported, although some people say it might be too early to tell.



Cleaning up the oil

Around the world



Pilgrims
praying

Mecca, Saudi Arabia Annual pilgrimage begins

About 1.8 million Muslims gathered on June 14 for a yearly pilgrimage called the Hajj. During the last month of the Islamic calendar, pilgrims come from around the world to pray and perform rituals in Mecca, the holiest city in the religion of Islam. Due to extreme heat this year, at least 14 people died and 225 were treated for heat-related conditions.



Jin leaves
the military.

Yeoncheon, South Korea BTS member finishes military service

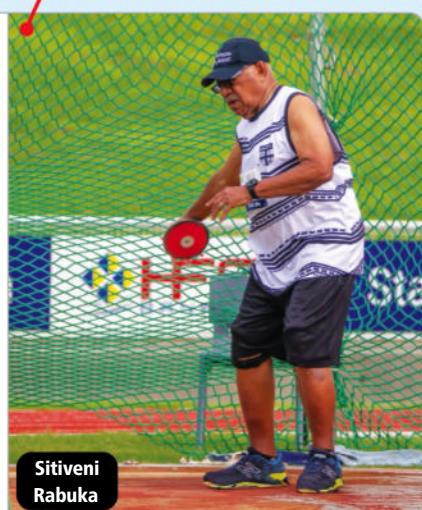
On June 12, Jin from the K-pop band BTS completed 18 months of service in the national military, as all men in South Korea are required to do. The requirement caused the band members to take a break from their music careers, and Jin, age 31, is the first to return. He performed for 1,000 BTS fans at a celebration event. According to his record label, he plans to release a solo album later this year.



The bridge

Jiangsu, China Record-breaking bridge completed

The Changtai Yangtze River Bridge in China has now been fully connected. Measuring 6.4 miles across, it is believed to be the world's longest cable-stayed bridge (structure with a main section that is held up by a series of cables connected to one or two towers). The bridge is designed to include roads and a railway. It has been under construction for five years and is expected to open to vehicle traffic in April 2025.



Sitiveni
Rabuka

Suva, Fiji Leader wins medal

On June 5, Fiji's prime minister, Sitiveni Rabuka, won a bronze medal at the Oceania Athletic Championships. Rabuka, a former soldier and athlete who is now 75 years old, won the medal for shot put (throwing a heavy metal ball as far as possible) and finished fourth in the discus (throwing a heavy disc). "I hope to inspire the younger generation to develop a habit of keeping fit and staying healthy," he said.



Opera
performers

Auckland, New Zealand Making opera more accessible

Blind and visually impaired opera fans in New Zealand are the first in the world to enjoy performances with special "surtitles" to tell them what's happening onstage. Previously, many relied on audio descriptions, which could interrupt the music. The new technology sends messages in braille (a system of raised dots that can be read with fingers) so the person can read along.



The big debate

Should singers stop swearing?

Some people say curse words in songs are rude, but others don't mind.

What you need to know

- Singers often record a radio-friendly version of a song with no curse words and an "explicit" version that includes swearing.
- Music streaming platforms like Spotify and Apple Music label certain songs "explicit" or mark them with a symbol.
- Music streaming platforms also have settings that allow users to block content they feel is inappropriate. This means they will only hear the version without swear words.

More than 500 million people use Spotify, the world's most popular music streaming service. By some estimates, about a third of the top songs on Spotify have explicit lyrics and contain swear words. Although explicit songs are usually labeled and can be blocked, the system isn't foolproof. Some songs avoid getting labeled, while other songs might be clean but the lyrics shown on screen aren't. Many artists swear in their music and say they're simply expressing themselves, and many people support that. Others, however, say they should clean up their act. What do you think? Should singers stop swearing in their songs?

YES Three reasons why singers should stop swearing

- 1 There's no reason for songs to have swear words in them. It's rude, unnecessary, and adds nothing of value.
- 2 Adults, including pop stars, should be setting a good example for children.
- 3 If a lot of songs have curse words in them, swearing may become more common, even though it's not OK at school or work.



WOW!
In 2023, Taylor Swift was the top global artist on Spotify, with more than 26 billion streams.

Yes—artists are role models

Singers release radio-friendly versions of their music, and they're still popular. This shows that songs don't need swear words to become hits. Swearing is rude and doesn't add anything exciting or imaginative to music. Adults are supposed to set a good example for kids, and this applies to pop stars too. In fact, it's even more important because many young people look up to singers. If too many songs contain curse words, swearing could start to seem acceptable or even cool and kids could be encouraged to do it. That would be a problem in school and at work, where swearing is considered poor manners.

No—artists need freedom

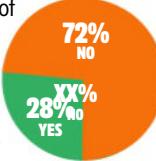
Music is art, and singers use their art to express their feelings and beliefs. They should be able to say whatever they want in the songs they write and perform. Explicit songs aren't targeted at children anyway, so kids can still enjoy them by listening to clean versions on the radio or blocking songs with inappropriate lyrics on streaming apps. If people are so concerned about children being exposed to swear words, why not institute a different system? Films have an age rating, and music could have one too. That way, singers can write songs the way they like without having to worry about who might be listening to them.

NO Three reasons why singers should not stop swearing

- 1 Songs are an artistic form of expression, and singers should be able to freely say what they think and feel.
- 2 Children can listen to the clean versions of songs on the radio or block explicit versions on streaming platforms.
- 3 Music could have ratings, like movies or shows, and singers can say what they like.

LAST WEEK'S POLL

Last week, we asked you if sunrise is better than sunset. Almost three quarters of you prefer a burst of evening color, and the rest like the calm morning light.



What do you think?

Now that you've read a bit more about this issue, visit kids.theweekjunior.com/polls so you can vote in our debate. Vote **YES** if you think singers should stop swearing or **NO** if you don't. We'll publish the results next week.

The goal of the big debate is to present two sides of an issue fairly in order to stimulate discussion and allow our readers to make up their minds. The views on this page do not reflect those of *The Week Junior*, and the page is not funded by third parties.

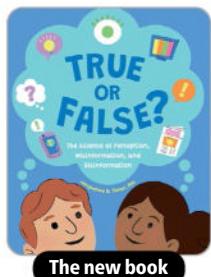


A mental health champion

Dr. Jacqueline B. Toner makes psychology accessible for young people.

Dr. Jacqueline B. Toner has spent her career of more than 30 years helping people understand their emotions and feelings. She is a psychologist, meaning she studies the mind and behavior, and draws from this expertise in the nine books she's published. Her latest, *True or False?: The Science of Perception, Misinformation, and Disinformation*, aims to help young people navigate online content. It will be released on August 6.

Toner, who lives in Baltimore, Maryland, was interested in psychology from a young age. She studied the subject in college and earned her doctorate in psychology from the University of Virginia. Afterward, she became a clinical psychologist, treating children and teenagers with mental health concerns. That experience led her to co-author the



The new book

book series *What to Do When*, which offers children guidance amid challenges, such as making friends and facing fears.

In partnership with the American Psychological Association, Toner wrote *True or False?* to help young people recognize misinformation on the internet and social media. She uses charts and real-world examples to explain complex topics. In one chapter, she covers how social media can spread false rumors, which can in turn lead to online bullying among teenagers.

By revealing the science of how misinformation is spread, Toner told *The Week Junior* that she hopes readers feel empowered to ask questions and speak up. Her goal is for kids to come away from the book "with a curiosity for the science of psychology and to become better critical thinkers," she said.



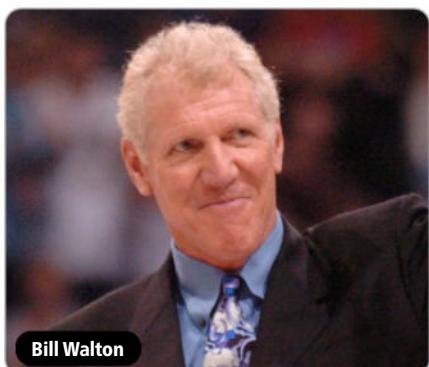
Dr. Jacqueline B. Toner

WORD ORIGIN

"Psychology" comes from the 16th-century Greek word *psyche*, which translates to "soul" or "mind."

Legend is mourned

Bill Walton, a celebrated basketball player and broadcaster, has died at age 70. After growing up in California, Walton led his college team at the University of California, Los Angeles to two national titles, won two NBA championships with the Portland Trail Blazers and Boston Celtics, and was inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame. He became a network TV basketball commentator in the 1990s, charming audiences with his vibrant observations for 20 years. Walton was "truly one of a kind," said NBA Commissioner Adam Silver.



Bill Walton



Student breaks record

Louisa Royer, age 8, of Indiana, has been certified as the world's youngest drone videographer by Guinness World Records. She was awarded the title after using her drone to create a film called *Dangerous Plants*, which captured footage of a trip her family took to Romania and Hungary last year. Royer was also named Best New Drone Pilot at the 2023 AZDroneFest International Film Festival in Arizona. Royer said she is passionate about drone piloting because it allows her to "explore the world from a different viewpoint."

OVERHEARD



Actor Pedro Pascal, age 49, who stars as the title character in the Star Wars franchise *The Mandalorian*



Animals and the environment



LONG LIMBS

An orangutan's arms can span more than 7 feet from fingertip to fingertip.

More amazing builders

Fire ants construct intricate nests and can survive floods by locking their bodies together to form a kind of living raft. Researchers tried pulling on the ants' raft structures and found that they never stretched out or broke. This could be because the ants strengthen their grip on each other in order to stay together.



Fire ants

How orangutans learn to build nests

Nests in trees are not just for birds. Orangutans are also known for constructing nests high up in the treetops, where they sleep at night. Now researchers from the UK have learned that orangutans develop their ability to build nests over the course of several years, starting from a young age.

Orangutans live in forests on the islands of Sumatra and Borneo. Every night, they build nests in trees as high as four stories above the ground. After picking a spot, orangutans will bend or break branches inward and weave them together to form a basic support structure for the nest. They then add smaller branches on

top of this structure to create a comfortable place to sleep. Some orangutans even make pillows or roofs for their nests.

A team of researchers led by Andrea Permane of the University of Warwick spent years studying how orangutans learn to build nests in the wild. They observed wild Sumatran orangutans at a research site in Sumatra, Indonesia, and found that the apes begin practicing nest-building when

they are 6 months old. Baby orangutans start by adding twigs and leaves to their mothers' nests, as well as bending and breaking branches.



The young apes stay with their mothers for years.

At about 1 year old, the young apes begin building nests of their own. They use these nests as a place to sit while foraging for food during the day. Approximately two years later, they start creating night nests. They still usually sleep in their mothers' nests, though, while also spending a significant amount of time practicing nest-building. Permane told *Science News* that a 3-year-old orangutan named Fredy built and destroyed 21 nests in a single day.

Orangutans finally sleep exclusively in their own night nests starting at about 7 years of age. At this point they stop doing extra practice, which indicates that they have mastered the skill. To see a video of a baby orangutan using nest-building techniques, visit tinyurl.com/TWJUS-BuildingNests.



PLACE OF THE WEEK

Dinosaur National Monument, Colorado and Utah

Dinosaurs once lived in this remote landscape, where visitors can now see and touch million-year-old dinosaur fossils. The Quarry Exhibit Hall features about 1,500 dinosaur bones from the Late Jurassic period (164 to 145 million years ago), including *Allosaurus* and *Stegosaurus*. Scientists have also found evidence here of animals that lived alongside dinosaurs, including turtles, salamanders, and small mammals. Today, pronghorns, bobcats, side-blotched lizards, and more than 200 bird species thrive in the park's deserts, woodlands, mountains, rivers, and canyons.



Bobcats now live in the park.



MAKING NOISE
The call of a blue whale can reach 188 decibels, which is louder than a jet engine.

Meerkats are great communicators.

Decoding meerkats' secret language

Meerkats are known for living in complex social groups, called mobs or gangs, and using vocalizations to interact with their group mates. A new study has found two specific types of noises that meerkats use to communicate with their mob.

Meerkats, which are members of the mongoose family, live mostly in the harsh deserts and grasslands of southern Africa. Meerkat mobs must work together to survive. Each member takes on a job, such as gathering food or looking out for predators, and they communicate constantly.

Using collars with small microphones in them, scientists recorded 38 meerkats living in three groups at a wildlife research center in South Africa. They identified two distinct sounds: "short notes" and "close calls."

Short notes announce a meerkat's presence, similar to saying hello to a crowd. Close calls are used in situations similar to a one-on-one conversation, such as when a meerkat wants a response from another animal nearby. Chatting like this helps a mob stay together, keeping them safer from predators and other meerkat gangs.

Animal of the Week

Bornean flat-headed frog



Experts previously thought this small frog species had no lungs. They believed the frog absorbed all of its oxygen through its skin. But now, using a high-resolution scanner, researchers have discovered tiny lungs inside its body.

- **LIFE SPAN:** Unknown
- **HABITAT:** Fast-flowing streams on Borneo Island
- **SIZE:** About 3 inches long
- **Shrimp and larvae (young insects)**
- **FUN FACT:** Having a flat body makes it easy for this frog to hide under rocks for protection.



Good week / Bad week



Red wolves

Four red wolf pups were born at the Trevor Zoo in New York, and eight more were born in the wild at a North Carolina wildlife refuge. About 20 of these critically endangered wolves remain in the wild, so every birth makes a difference.



Greater spotted eagles

The war in Ukraine has caused greater spotted eagles to alter their migration routes. Experts found that they are traveling an extra 52 miles on average to avoid conflict areas during their spring journey from South Sudan and Greece to Belarus.



Joseph K. Gaydos

Senior wildlife veterinarian, SeaDoc Society, UC Davis SVM

Some turtles evolved to spend long periods of time underwater. For example, sea turtles have a streamlined shape with long flippers that are more useful for swimming than for walking. They can also hold their breath for a long time, partly thanks to their muscles' ability to hold oxygen.



A sea turtle

Do you have a question for an animal expert? Send it to hello@theweekjunior.com. Find out more about UC Davis SVM at vetmed.ucdavis.edu.



All about Faith Ringgold

She was a voice in art

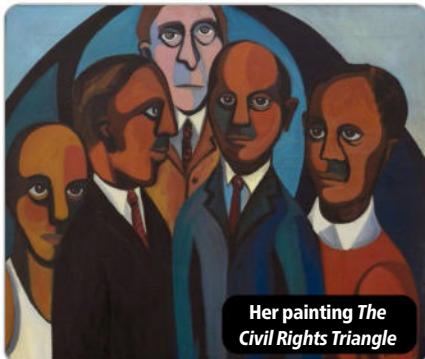
Faith Ringgold told stories through her quilts, paintings, sculptures, and masks.

Artist and children's book author Faith Ringgold recently died at age 93. She was best known for using a variety of art forms to portray Black American lives.



In the 1980s

Early life
Faith Willi Jones was born in New York City's Harlem neighborhood on October 8, 1930. Her mother, Willi Posey, was a seamstress and fashion designer, and her father drove a sanitation truck. Faith spent significant time in bed due to her asthma and passed the time drawing and painting. After high school, she went to the City College of New York, where women were not allowed to major in art. She studied it anyway by enrolling in the college's school of education. She graduated in 1955, returned to earn a master's degree in art in 1959, and taught art in public schools for nearly 20 years. In 1962, she took her second husband's last name, Ringgold.



Her painting *The Civil Rights Triangle*

Finding her style

Ringgold traveled to Europe in the 1960s and created landscape paintings, but they were rejected by major galleries. Before long, she began making paintings and posters in support of Black identity, independence, and equal rights. Her series "The American People" (1963–1967) expressed some of those ideas and depicted the civil rights movement. She advocated for representation for Black and female artists in American museums and co-founded Where We At, an artists collective for Black women.



Three works by the artist

Faith Ringgold produced hundreds of pieces of art and experimented with many styles and techniques. Here are three examples.



Nigerian Face Mask #1

Inspired by a visit to Nigeria, Ringgold created this 1976 mask using fabric, beads, and raffia palm leaf fibers. It was the first in a series of masks she made.





and activism

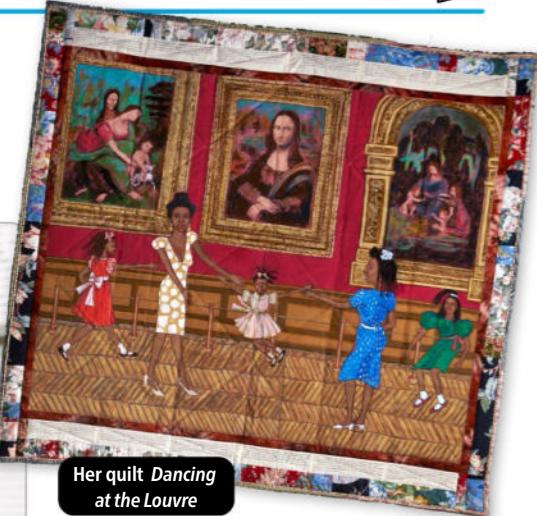


PORTAIT OF A LIFE

Faith Ringgold published an illustrated memoir, *We Flew Over the Bridge*, in 1995.

HONORING A HERO

In 2012, Faith Ringgold designed a Google Doodle for Martin Luther King Jr. Day.



Her quilt *Dancing at the Louvre*

New ways to tell stories

In the 1970s, Ringgold started incorporating fabric and other materials into her work, creating thangkas (Tibetan paintings framed in woven fabrics), soft sculptures, and masks. With her mother, Ringgold created her first quilt, *Echoes of Harlem*, in 1980. She often included images of Black lives and history in the quilts and later began adding text to produce a new artistic medium: "story quilts." One of Ringgold's most famous quilts was *Tar Beach* in 1988. It depicted an 8-year-old in New York City who dreams of flying. In 1991, the story became a children's picture book of the same title, which in 1992 was named a Caldecott Honor Book. She went on to write 19 more children's books.



A subway mural

Leaving a legacy

The story quilts and children's books became Ringgold's best-known achievements, but the artist continued creating other works too. She made art for public spaces, including mosaics depicting historic figures—such as performer Josephine Baker and activist Malcolm X—at a subway station on 125th Street in New York City. In her 80s, Ringgold created an art-making app, Quiltduko. In 2022, she was honored with a major exhibition of her life's work at the New Museum in Manhattan. At the time of Ringgold's death on April 12, 2024, she had received more than 80 awards and honors.

Mrs. Jones and Family

Ringgold made several sculptures of people she knew and admired. This 1973 soft sculpture represents a young Ringgold with her mother, sister, and brother. Their clothing is attached to the masks that form their faces.



For the Women's House

The artist created this large painting for a women's prison in New York City. Measuring 8 feet tall by 8 feet wide, it depicts females in nontraditional roles and careers.



Science and technology



When dinos became warm-blooded

For many years, scientists believed that all dinosaurs were cold-blooded. However, they also knew that dinosaurs eventually evolved (changed very slowly over time) into modern birds, like pigeons and chickens, which are warm-blooded. That meant that at least some dinosaurs must have become warm-blooded, but which ones and when that happened was unclear. Now a new study has found that dinosaurs became warm-blooded about 183 million years ago.

Cold-blooded, or ectothermic, animals rely on external sources of heat, like sunlight, to maintain their body temperature. Reptiles, amphibians, and most fish are cold-blooded. Warm-blooded, or endothermic, animals can generate their own body heat internally. Birds and mammals, including humans, are warm-blooded.

The new study was led by Alfio Alessandro Chiarenza of University College London, in the UK. He and his team analyzed about 1,000 dinosaur fossils from the Mesozoic Era (230 to 66 million years ago). They also looked at how the climate changed and different species of dinosaurs spread throughout the Earth during that period.



Modern birds, like roosters, are warm-blooded.

About 183 million years ago, massive volcanic eruptions caused climate disruptions on Earth and led to the extinction of many plant and animal species. The team found that at about this time, two of the three main dinosaur groups—theropods and ornithischians—migrated to colder climates. Theropods include *Tyrannosaurus rex*, and ornithischians include *Triceratops* and *Stegosaurus*.

According to the study, the move to colder areas indicates that these dinosaurs had developed the ability to generate their own body heat. "If something is capable of living in...very cold regions, it must have some way of heating up," Chiarenza said. In contrast, sauropods, the dinosaur group

that includes the *Brontosaurus*, mostly stayed in dry, warm climates. As cold-blooded dinosaurs, they would have needed a warm environment.

The team believes that the ability to regulate their own body temperatures gave warm-blooded dinosaurs an advantage after the climate disruption. They would have been able to stay active, grow, and have babies, all of which would have helped them to survive and thrive.

How birds adapt



A wing-banded antbird

A new study sheds light on how certain birds in the Amazon rainforest adjust their bodies to the temperatures around them. Researchers studied birds that find their food by foraging on the forest floor. The team attached small devices called bio-loggers, which monitored the birds' daily activities without disrupting or altering their behavior.

The study found that the birds start warming themselves up before dawn, which is the coldest time of day. As the midday heat rises, they start cooling themselves down to avoid overheating. The birds also seem to take baths to regulate their temperature. Studying these behaviors will help scientists understand how the birds are responding to climate change and guide conservation efforts.



Shirts allow more soccer fans to enjoy the game

New shirts can help soccer fans who are deaf or have hearing loss "feel" the atmosphere of a stadium during a match. The SoundShirt, created by a company called CuteCircuit, uses haptic technology. This uses forces, vibrations, or movements to create an artificial sense of touch. The technology debuted at a match at St. James' Park in the UK, where the soccer team Newcastle United plays.

Microphones placed around the pitch capture the sound of the crowd cheering and singing. A special computer program analyzes the sounds and transforms them into data, which is wirelessly sent to the shirts. Electronic circuits inside the shirt material respond to the sounds of the crowd and cause

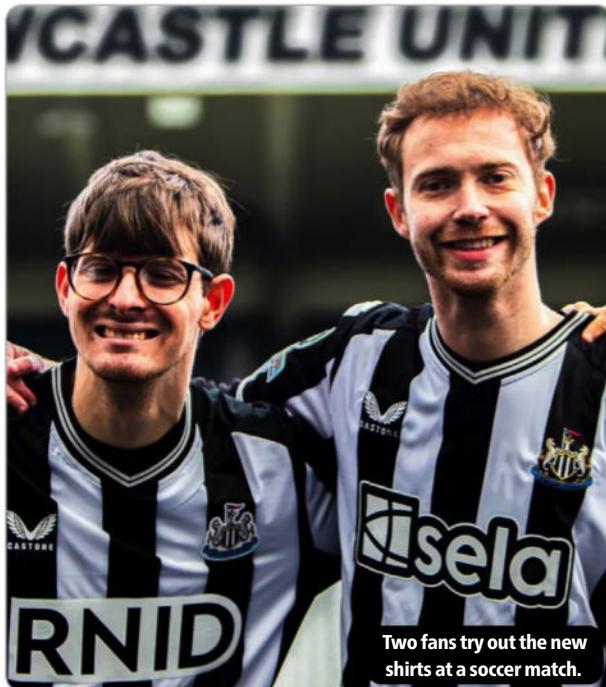
tiny motors to vibrate, which the person wearing the shirt can feel in real time.

CuteCircuit has also created similar shirts that allow people who are deaf and hard-of-hearing to feel live music. The Lyric Opera of Chicago, in Illinois, uses the shirts combined with sign language and supertitles (words shown above the stage) to help people with hearing loss experience live opera.

The shirts can also be used to feel sounds while playing video games.

The SoundShirts will be available for deaf or hard-of-hearing fans at all Newcastle matches that are played at the stadium from now on. Rob Lee, who used to play for Newcastle, said, "I think it'll be a showstopper and every club should get it."

DID YOU KNOW?
The word "haptic" comes from an Ancient Greek word, haptethai, which means "to touch."



Two fans try out the new shirts at a soccer match.

Chocolate is a mix of cocoa beans and ingredients like sugar.



Chocolate helps people and the planet

Scientists have created a new type of dark chocolate that is healthier and more sustainable than regular dark chocolate. Chocolate is made from cocoa beans, which come from cocoa pods. The rest of the pod, including the lining and most of the pulp, is usually thrown out.

There has been a shortage of cocoa beans in recent months, which led researchers in Switzerland to try using other parts of the pod. The team created a sweet "cocoa jelly"

from the lining and pulp, which they combined with beans. After some trial and error, they found that using about 20% cocoa jelly created a product that's closest in flavor and texture to traditional dark chocolate.

The cocoa jelly is very sweet, which means the final product needs less added sugar. It also has more fiber and less fat than standard chocolate. The new recipe reduces waste and could help cocoa farmers, who can sell more of the pod.



A robot that hugs like a human



Punyo picking up yoga mats

Humans pick up bulky objects using their hands, arms, chest, and hips, but most humanoid (humanlike) robots use only their hands. A new robot, called Punyo, is designed to "hug" objects to pick them up, just like a person would.

Punyo wears a "sweater" loaded with cameras, sensors, and inflatable pads that tell it whether an object is hard or soft and how much it weighs. Punyo can adapt by leaning forward or backward, hugging firmly, or loosening its grip on whatever it's holding.



Photos of the week



I see you

A parakeet in Turkey
peeks out from a tree.



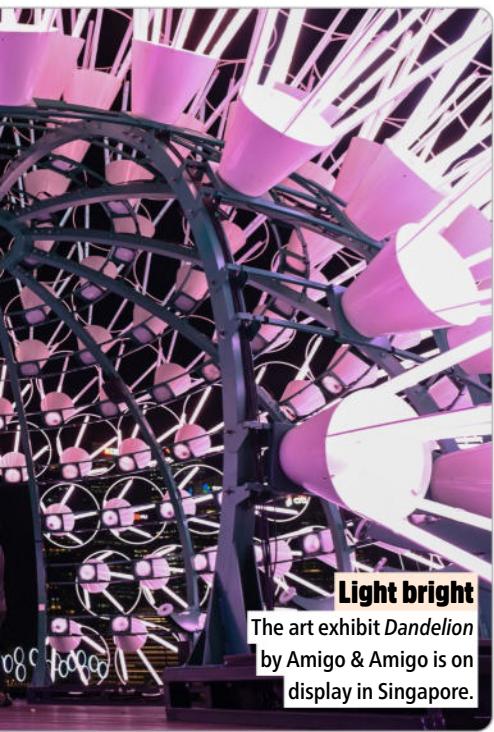
Seeing circles

An ancient mosque
in Turkey is seen
from above.

GETTY IMAGES (6)



Photos of the week



Light bright

The art exhibit *Dandelion* by Amigo & Amigo is on display in Singapore.



Take a walk

A tunnel in Australia is transformed as part of a show called *Dark Spectrum*.



All together

Students in China take part in a flash mob before college entrance exams.



Ride the wave

A US athlete competes in the opening round of a surfing competition in Tahiti.



DID YOU KNOW?

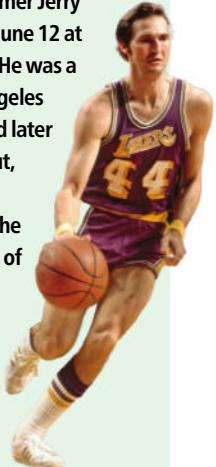
Boston Celtics coach Joe Mazzulla, age 35, is the youngest coach to win an NBA title since 1969.

Sports



Remembering a star

NBA Hall of Famer Jerry West died on June 12 at the age of 86. He was a former Los Angeles Lakers star and later became a scout, coach, and executive for the team. A photo of West that was taken in 1969 was used for the design of the NBA logo.



Celtics win 18th NBA championship

The Boston Celtics won the 2024 National Basketball Association (NBA) championship on June 17 after beating the Dallas Mavericks, 106–88, in Game 5 of the best-of-seven NBA Finals. It is their 18th title, which is the most of any NBA franchise.

In the postseason, the Celtics were the top-seeded (ranked) team in the Eastern Conference. The Mavericks were the fifth seed in the West, and they eliminated three of the top four teams in their conference to earn their chance at a second NBA title.

The first two games of the finals were played in Boston, Massachusetts, and the Celtics won both. The teams then traveled to Dallas, Texas,

where they played a thrilling Game 3. Early in the fourth quarter, the Celtics were up by 21 points. The Mavericks battled back and were only three points behind with six minutes left, but the Celtics held on to win, 106–99.

No NBA team has ever won a playoffs series after being down 3–0, but the Mavericks stopped the Celtics from sweeping them by dominating Game 4, which they won, 122–84. It was one of the biggest blowouts in NBA playoffs history. Mavericks star Luca Doncic scored 25 points in the first half, and his team led by 48 points at one point in the game.

The action returned to Boston for Game 5. The Celtics ended the first half with a 21-point

lead that was capped off by a buzzer-beating half-court shot by Payton Pritchard. They led by 10 points or more for the entire second half, and the team's suffocating defense played a major role in their series-clinching win.

Boston's two star forwards, Jayson Tatum and Jaylen Brown, led the way throughout the series. In Game 3, Tatum scored 31 points while Brown had 30 points, eight rebounds, and eight assists. In Game 5, Tatum delivered his best performance of the finals, scoring 31 points while adding 11 assists and eight rebounds.

In a ceremony after the Celtics won the championship, Brown was named the NBA Finals Most Valuable Player. "It was a full team effort," he said. "I share this with my brothers and my partner in crime, Jayson Tatum."



Jaylen Brown

THIS WEEK'S WINNERS...

GOLF

On June 16, American Bryson DeChambeau won his second US Open, one of four major tournaments in men's golf. He was tied for the lead with Rory McIlroy going into the final hole but won by one stroke. After McIlroy missed a putt, DeChambeau had a chance to pull ahead. He hit a bunker shot that landed four feet from the hole, then putted it in to clinch the victory.



Bryson DeChambeau

SOCCER

On June 15, San Diego Wave forward Jaedyn Shaw, age 19, scored her 13th goal as a player in the National Women's Soccer League, breaking the league record for most goals by a teen.

CRICKET

The US advanced to the Super 8 stage of the Men's T20 Cricket World Cup for the first time in history after a match against Ireland was called off due to rain. At press time, Team USA was set to play South Africa on June 19.



Olympic basketball team named

On June 11, USA Basketball unveiled the names of the players who will compete in the women's 5x5 competition at the Olympics in Paris this summer. Team USA will be seeking its eighth consecutive Olympic gold medal.

The 12 members of the squad are Napheesa Collier, Kahleah Copper, Chelsea Gray, Brittney Griner, Sabrina Ionescu, Jewell Loyd, Kelsey Plum, Breanna Stewart, Diana Taurasi, Alyssa Thomas, A'ja Wilson, and Jackie Young. They all play in the WNBA (Women's National Basketball Association) and have combined for 55 WNBA All-Star appearances. Wilson, Stewart, and Taurasi have each won WNBA Most Valuable Player awards.

Before the roster was announced, many people wondered if this season's WNBA overall number one draft pick, Caitlin Clark of the Indiana

Fever, or any other star rookies would make the Olympic team. However, USA Basketball chose to stick with veterans for the 5x5 team.

For the second time in history, every member of the Olympic roster has either an Olympic gold medal or World Cup championship. Taurasi will be making a record sixth straight Olympic appearance. She and Collier, Gray, Griner, Loyd, Stewart, and Wilson were members of the US team that won gold at the last summer Olympics, which were held in Tokyo, Japan, in 2021.

The US will enter the Olympics as the world's top-ranked team. The last time a US women's basketball team lost a game at the Olympics was in 1992. Other top teams in Paris will be China, Australia, Spain, and Canada. The US plays Japan in their first Group Stage game on July 29.



COACH OF THE WEEK

Coach's Name: **Adrian Hughes**

Team: **Delco Gaels (Gaelic Sports)**

"Coach Adrian always makes sure we're having fun and feeling a part of the team. He makes practices interesting and sometimes brings us popsicles! He is always positive and gives us pointers on how to improve. In hurling, he's helped us get better at picking up the ball with our hurds, which can be tricky! In Gaelic football, he helps us with the correct punting technique. We have a good time with him." Zhana, 11, and Liam, 8, Pennsylvania



To nominate a Coach of the Week, send your coach's name, photo, sport, and team to hello@theweekjunior.com. Include your name, age, state, and a few reasons why your coach is great.

SPOTLIGHT ON...

These US athletes have qualified for or are hoping to qualify for this summer's Olympics or Paralympics in Paris. Here are some quotes they shared with The Week Junior about their lives.

Zion Redington AGE: 18

SPORT: WHEELCHAIR RUGBY



"My favorite thing about wheelchair rugby is the big hits. It's a very physical sport. You've got guys flipping over all the time and tons of people just going at it."

Evy Leibfarth AGE: 20

SPORT: CANOE/KAYAK



"Every course is different, so there's always problem-solving and visualizing how you're going to do the gates. We don't get to practice them before the competition. We watch a demonstration, and then we have about a day to plan."

Andrew Capobianco AGE: 24

SPORT: DIVING



"I started with gymnastics when I was 9 years old. During a field trip I took to a community pool with my elementary school, I was flipping off the diving boards, and the diving coach there asked me if I was a diver. She asked me to try it out. I fell in love with the feeling of flipping and twisting in the air. I also love the feeling of going through the water without a splash. It's pretty unique."

McKenzie Coan AGE: 28

SPORT: PARA SWIMMING



"I still remember the days I was doing aqua therapy. I would get out of my wheelchair and hop in the pool. I felt like I belonged in the water more than I did on land, and I still get that feeling to this day. This would be my fourth Paralympic Games. One of the really cool moments for me when I go to a Games is seeing the pool for the first time. I always like to take a minute and imagine what could happen there for me and reflect on the years that it took to get there."



Arts and entertainment



Nature inspires garden art

Whimsical sculptures of bunnies, birds, and butterflies by artist Hunt Slonem are on display in San Antonio, Texas.

Shiny, colorful animals are now filling the San Antonio Botanical Garden in San Antonio, Texas. They are part of *Huntopia: Bunnies, Birds & Butterflies*, an exhibition of large-scale sculptures and paintings by American artist Hunt Slonem that is making its world premiere.

Slonem, age 72, was born in Kittery, Maine, but grew up in places that included Hawaii and Nicaragua, where he became fascinated with tropical nature. He is known for vibrant



Hunt Slonem

abstract paintings of nature and animals as well as playful sculptures. Katherine Trumble, the Garden's chief executive officer, told *The Week Junior* that Slonem spent the past five years dreaming about a garden show. She said *Huntopia* is "like walking into a canvas of Hunt's work."

Slonem's art is displayed in 25 scenes across the garden's 38 acres. Pieces arrived on six 52-foot-long trucks and took about three weeks to install. Among the sculptures are massive mosaic rabbits, each made of 20,000 hand-cut, hand-applied pieces

of glass. Colossal butterflies also appear in a wildflower field. "He began painting butterflies as a teenager," Trumble said. "They're a major focal point for the exhibition." While things were being installed, Slonem made orchid paintings on site, and those works are on display too.

Trumble said that Slonem's work is "very approachable for visitors of all ages," and he seems to agree. In an interview with a local reporter at *Huntopia*'s opening, he said, "My work, because of its nature aspect and some of its simplistic components, seems to appeal a great deal to children and inspire them."

3 facts about Hunt Slonem

Estate owner

He is known for buying and restoring old homes and buildings around the country. One of them is a French chateau-style castle (right) in Great Barrington, Massachusetts, which was built in the 1880s and has 40 rooms.



Animal lover

The artist has his own aviary (building for birds) where he keeps about 100 live birds of various species, including parrots. He has owned some birds for more than 40 years. Slonem often has birds on his shoulder while he's painting in his studio.



A parrot

Collector

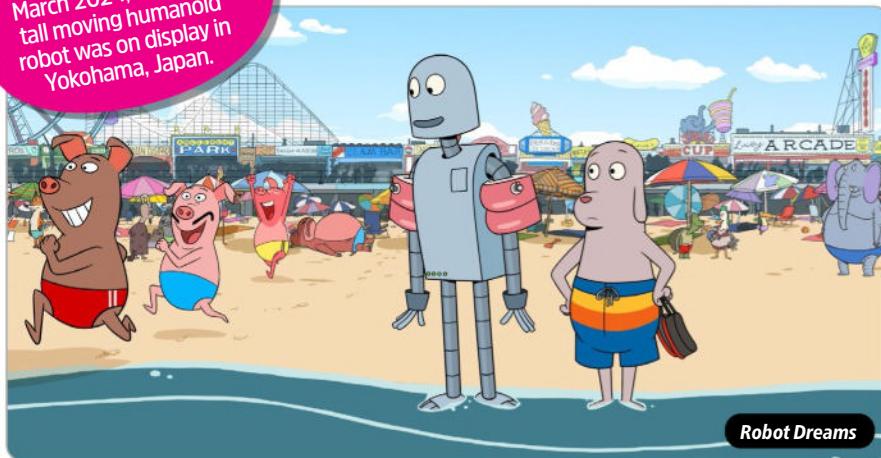
Slonem has built up collections of top hats and old antique frames, which he often finds at flea markets. He uses the frames to showcase his own paintings.



FUN FACT

From 2020 through March 2024, a 59-foot tall moving humanoid robot was on display in Yokohama, Japan.

Arts and entertainment



Robot Dreams

Animated film about friendship

Robot Dreams, an acclaimed animated feature film that was up for an Oscar (top film award) in March, is now playing in theaters across the US. It is a moving story about a lonely dog's friendship with his robot buddy.

The film was made for people of all ages and was written and directed by Spanish filmmaker Pablo Berger. It is based on a graphic novel of the same name by Sara Varon. Berger told *The Week Junior* that he fell in love with it the first time he read it. "It was surprising. It was unique. It was funny. It was emotional," he said.

The graphic novel doesn't have any dialogue and neither does the film, which is filled with background sounds, noises, and music. "The music is the voice of the characters," Berger said. One important song is "September," a pop-funk classic by the band Earth, Wind & Fire. Berger

chose the song early in his writing process as he was thinking of a tune Robot and Dog could dance to on roller skates. It was a perfect fit because the theme of the film is memory and the song's lyrics are "about remembering the good times," he said.

While the print and on-screen versions of *Robot Dreams* are similar, Berger added many details to the story to turn it into a feature-length film. For example, he set the action in New York City in the 1980s and filled it with other animal characters. And unlike in the graphic novel, the film depicts what Dog's life was like before he got Robot. Berger told *The Week Junior* the film has an overall message: "Moving on is important in life." However, he expects people to have different reactions to the characters and story. "I would like to think that the film, more than giving answers, also raises questions," he said.



Pablo Berger

THIS WEEK'S WATCH LIST

**Camp Snoopy**

(Apple TV+)

Snoopy, the beloved beagle from the *Peanuts* comics, stars in this new series. It follows him and his fellow Beagle Scouts in the great outdoors. They cross paths with Charlie Brown and friends at camp and have a summer full of hiking, swimming, and campfires.

**Dynamic Planet**

(PBS) Wednesdays at 8 p.m. ET

(PBS app) (PBS.org)

Travel to remote places through this four-part documentary series. You'll see animals such as emperor penguins and monarch butterflies, learn how science can predict the planet's future, and meet people protecting wildlife.

**Angry Birds Mystery Island**

(Amazon Prime)

The popular Angry Birds video game inspired this new series. It follows piglet Hamylton and teen birds Mia, Rosie, and Buddy, who get stranded on an island. They try to return home, but bad weather, disagreements, jungle monsters, and island mysteries make it challenging.

**READER RECOMMENDS****Henry Danger** (Major streaming platforms)

"This five-season TV series is about Henry Hart, a 13-year-old from a town called Swellview. After he meets the town's superhero, Captain Man, Henry becomes his sidekick-in-training, Kid Danger. While Henry fights crime all over Swellview, he has to keep his job as Kid Danger a secret from his family and friends. Some of the villains they face are The Toddler and Time Jerker. After a while, Henry's friends Charlotte and Jasper find out about his secret identity and join the superhero team to help Kid Danger and Captain Man fight crime." Cassidy, 9, North Carolina

Do you have a film or TV show to recommend to other kids? Send your review to hello@theweekjunior.com.



On screen

FAMOUS RABBIT

In 1985, Bugs Bunny was given a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in California.



MultiVersus characters

Have fun brawls with big stars

MultiVersus is a new platform fighting game. It was recently released for the PlayStation platforms, Xbox systems, and PC. It is rated Teen.

The free-to-play game features characters from franchises created or owned by Warner Brothers, such as DC Comics and Looney Tunes, facing off in action-packed showdowns that are cartoonish, not gruesome. It is similar to the popular Nintendo game Super Smash Bros.

There are currently 27 playable characters in MultiVersus, and more are likely on the way. The lineup includes Batman, Bugs Bunny, Gizmo from *Gremlins*, Morty from *Rick and Morty*, and the Iron Giant. Not every character is available to play with from the start, though. For example, it takes time to unlock the Joker. Another way to get characters is to buy them.



The characters are divided into four categories based on their fighting style. You can play alone in the Player vs. Environment (PvE) mode, which helps you learn how things work and test different characters without having to compete against others. You can also learn about the game's "perks," which

are special abilities that boost your fighting. In the online Player vs. Player (PvP) mode, you can team up with a friend and take on people around the world. Battles are set in locations such as Batman's batcave and a Space Jam-style basketball court.

A big part of MultiVersus is unlocking different costumes and designs for each character. As you play, you earn currency that will help you upgrade their styles and unlock new moves, and the online marketplace will keep new options coming.



PODCAST OF THE WEEK

PEACE, LOVE, AND CUPCAKES

Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Audible

Based on the book series The Cupcake Club, this new weekly show tells the story of Kylie, a 9-year-old who just moved to a new elementary school. When she finds it difficult to make new friends, she teams up with three other students who are outsiders like her and starts a baking club.



WEBSITE OF THE WEEK



PICTURE INSECT

pictureinsect.com

This site is a search engine for insect facts. Type in the common or scientific name of one of the more than 10,000 species in its database, and you'll see a picture of the insect and details such as where it lives and what it eats. Download the Picture Insect app to search using photos of insects you find.



CHANNEL OF THE WEEK

SANDWICHES OF HISTORY

youtube.com/c/sandwichesofhistory

Every day, Barry W. Enderwick makes a sandwich using a recipe from very old cookbooks or another unusual source. In his videos, you can watch him whip up and taste items including a jellied chicken sandwich from a 1936 recipe and a spiced meat creation dating back to China in 200 BCE.



Book club



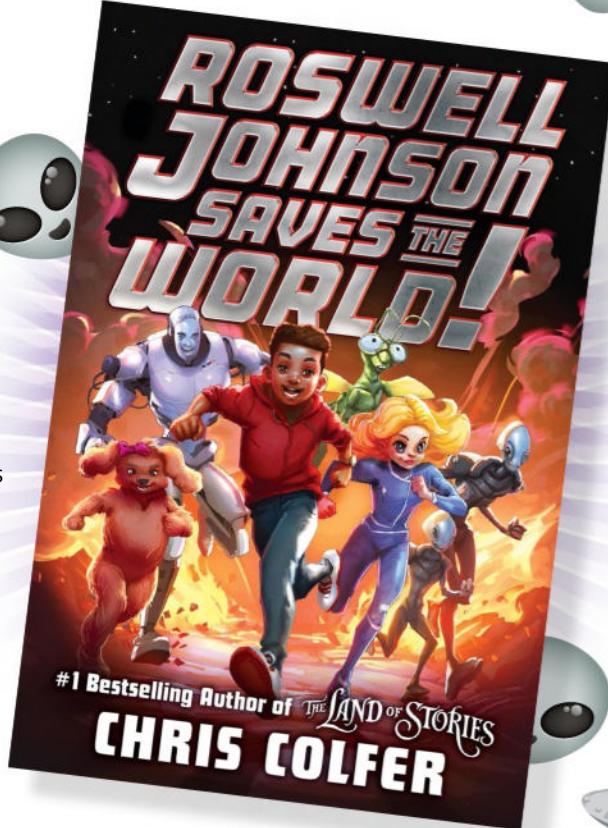
SUMMER OF READING FEATURED PICK

Roswell Johnson Saves the World!

By Chris Colfer, illustrated by Godwin Akpan

(Little, Brown and Company)

Roswell wants to prove that aliens exist. He thinks his science fair project on the topic will be convincing, but a racist judge doesn't give him a chance to present his findings or explain how his father once encountered aliens. After school, Roswell is at home when he hears his grandfather's prized chicken clucking. The chicken is being beamed onto a UFO, and Roswell jumps in. Nerp and Bleep, part of a friendly alien race called the Grays, are conducting experiments on life-forms. They don't realize Roswell is on board until they're practically to Pluto. Before Nerp and Bleep can return Roswell to Earth, they all get abducted by an evil alien species. Roswell's interrogation by the aliens is interrupted by a mind reader who is trying to help. Will they all be able to escape? Time is of the essence because the evildoers are planning to take over Earth. Your mind will be blown by the twist ending of the first book in a new sci-fi series.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR YOUR BOOK CLUB

Roswell Johnson Saves the World! is full of humor and pop-culture references, yet it also addresses important issues like racism. Here are questions to get a conversation going with friends and family who have also read the book.

Roswell believes there's no point in having a talent if no one recognizes it. What do you think?



The aliens said they secretly prevented harmful events from taking place on Earth. What are the pros and cons of their interventions?

Who do you think is the most resourceful character in the book and why?

Do you agree or disagree with how Roswell explains prejudices on Earth to the aliens?

If you met aliens, what would you most want to ask them?



Our list of "The 50 Books Kids Love Most," details about entering our Summer of Reading sweepstakes, and more can be found at kids.theweekjunior.com/summerofreading.



Ask the Author Ambassador

Chris Colfer is the author of the best-selling *The Land of Stories* fantasy series, and now he has published his first science fiction novel, *Roswell Johnson Saves the World!*



He spoke to *The Week Junior* about his lifelong fascination with aliens and more.

Do you believe in aliens?

I 100,000% do! I thought I saw one when I was a child. I woke up in the middle of the night when I was sick, and I remember seeing an adorable little alien at the foot of my bed.



How did this book come about?

For a long time, I've been fascinated about what extraterrestrial life would mean for humanity. I research UFO sightings as a hobby and decided to turn my interest into a book series.

What do you hope young readers take away from the story?

After kids travel the cosmos with Roswell and read about aliens of all colors, shapes, sizes, and belief systems, I hope they realize that prejudice, racism, and bigotry are pointless. I also hope they look at the night sky with a little more curiosity.

What were your favorite books when you were growing up?

Anytime a character left this world and went into a magical one, I was there for it. I enjoyed classics like *Alice in Wonderland*. I also adored *Which Witch?* by Eva Ibbotson and *I Was a Sixth-Grade Alien* by Bruce Coville.

Roller coaster or Ferris wheel?

Coasters all day every day!

What's a surprising fact about you?

I'm well-skilled in ninja weapons. I can twirl sai swords, nunchucks, and ninja stars. I learned because I was a huge fan of the *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles* as a kid.





Contest



PHOTO FACT

The first known underwater color photograph was taken off the Florida Keys in 1926.

Take amazing pictures of nature

Learn to capture the outdoor beauty all around you.

Nature photography is about taking pictures of natural elements outdoors, from wildlife to weather. It can be done anywhere, with a camera or a phone, and is a great way to document the natural scenery around you. "Nature photography is an amazing tool that you can use to capture and share what's important to you," professional nature photographer Jesse Burke told *The Week Junior*. Here's how to get started.

Pick a setting

First, choose where you want to take nature photos. If you're a beginner, you can start in your neighborhood or a local park. You can shoot wildlife, like birds or squirrels, or zoom in on trees that reflect a change of seasons. As you gain experience, you can work up to bigger settings, like landscapes. Try to tell a story with photos, Burke suggests. Take some of the overall scenery, then wildlife, and a few close-ups, like dew drops on a leaf. "When you look at all the pictures together later, you get a richer narrative," he says.

Use natural light to your advantage

Two of the best times to shoot are the "golden hours" each day—just after sunrise and right before sunset. This is when the Sun casts a natural, gentle glow that's ideal

for photos. Keep in mind the Sun's position in the sky, says Burke. For example, if you want to get a shot of an animal in front of a landscape, you should have the Sun to your back so the light is shining on your subject.

Try different angles

Decide what you do and don't want to see inside the frame of your shot, says Burke. When you're about to take a photo, look through the viewfinder of your camera or on the screen of your phone. Turn your camera a little to the right, then to the left.

Observe how this changes the shot and whether one side looks better. Vary your angles. Point your camera toward the ground or up to the sky to capture those vantage points as well.

Keep experimenting

The best way to become a stronger photographer is to practice, says Burke. If you'd like to learn technical skills, consider taking a photography class. Ask an adult to help you check with local art centers or look for an online course, such as one at outschool.com or khanacademy.org. You may also decide to enter our Nature Photo Contest! Get to know the photographers helping to judge the contest (at right) and see the entry form on the next page.



Frame your shot.

Meet the judges

Jesse Burke

He likes to document humans' relationship with nature, including life on his farm with his three daughters. See his work at jesseburke.com.



Angela Ledyard

She became interested in photography while watching her grandparents take photos. Now she finds inspiration in landscapes and more. See her work at angelaledyard.com.



Ami Vitale

She works as a photographer, filmmaker, and writer and is considered one of the most influential conservation photographers today. See her work at amivitale.com.





Enter our Nature Photo Contest!

The winning images from last year's contest

Do you love taking photographs of plants, flowers, trees, and wildlife? When you're outdoors, are you often trying to capture the amazing beauty of the natural world? If so, now is your chance to use your creativity, curiosity, and skills to enter *The Week Junior's* fourth annual Nature Photo Contest.

How to enter

- **Consider the judging criteria.** Submissions will be judged on quality (clear, well-composed photographs that aren't blurry), originality (the use of creativity and imagination through the camera lens), and how well they reflect the nature theme and *The Week Junior*.
- **Choose one photo to enter.** Only one photograph per entrant is allowed.
- **Fill out an entry form.** With an adult, complete an entry form and submit it by July 29, 2024.
- **Enter the correct age group category.** Children ages 8 to 10 will be judged in one category. Children ages 11 to 14 will be judged in another category. Winners will be selected from each category. The entry form for 8- to 10-year-olds is at tinyurl.com/TWJUS-2024PhotoContest-8-10. The entry form for 11- to 14-year-olds is at tinyurl.com/TWJUS-2024PhotoContest-11-14.

The deadline to enter is July 29!

The judges

The Nature Photo Contest will be judged by Editor-in-Chief Andrea Barbalich, Creative Director Dean Abatemarco, and Photo Editors Nataki Hewling and Lily Alt. The entries will also be judged by three award-winning professional photographers: Jesse Burke, Angela Ledyard, and Ami Vitale.

The prize

The winning entries may be featured in an upcoming issue of *The Week Junior*.



Puzzles



Keyword crossword

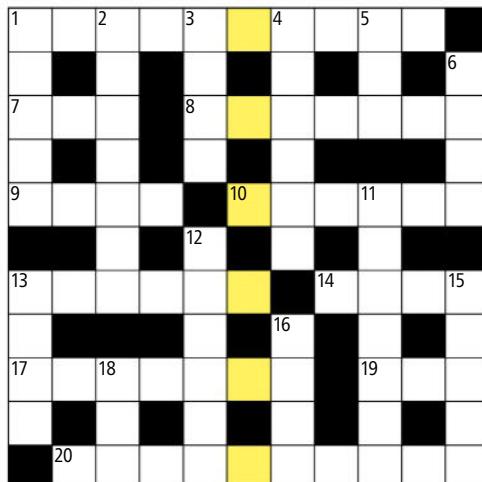
Once you have completed the crossword, transfer the letters in the yellow boxes, in order, into the boxes below to get the answer to the Keyword question.

ACROSS

- Lizard-like amphibian known for its ability to regrow a lost tail or limb
- Fuel for non-electric cars
- Slim
- Item of clothing in ancient Rome
- The opposite of never
- Age-old "computer" that uses beads instead of bytes
- Five-pointed shape
- Sweet mini-treat with frosting, sometimes sprinkles, and occasionally a candle
- Repeatedly pester about a specific task
- Place with waiters and cooks

DOWN

- The eyes have it
- Italian dish with layers of meat, cheese, sauce, and wide pasta
- Fine spray of water
- ___ and thread (sewing kit items)
- Come to a finish
- The colored part of your eye
- An insect's "feeler"
- Kind that belongs in the X-Men or the Ninja Turtles
- Famous structure that symbolizes St. Louis
- The hand that most pairs of scissors are made to be held with
- Something you might read when visiting the answer to 20-Across
- Food often served on March 14 while celebrating a mathematical symbol



Keyword question: Which is the only US state that touches two oceans?



**ANSWERS
CAN BE
FOUND ON
PAGE 29.**

CODE CRACKER

In this coded list of pink things, every letter has been replaced with a substitute. The same substitutions are used throughout the list. Hint: Every X here is an uncoded P. Use the letter patterns you find to crack the code. (NEED ANOTHER HINT? Check the bottom of the page.)

P	□	P	P	□	P	□	□
X	Y	X	X	Q	X	G	A
□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□
J	F	S	A	L	Y		
□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□
N	R	Q	H	G	S	A	F
□	□	□	□	□	□	□	□
Z	L	Z	Z	R	Y	A	L



THREE FOR ALL

Sort this list into three familiar three-part phrases, like THREE-RING CIRCUS or SALT LAKE CITY.

RUG DOG SONG LIVING EYE
WESTERN ROOM SEEING COUNTRY

Cutting room

Divide this grid into five sections so each section consists of five adjacent boxes containing the numbers 1–5. The sections may have different shapes.

5	4	4	5	3
2	1	3	4	1
5	4	5	3	2
2	3	3	1	2
1	4	2	5	1

Spot the difference



These two pictures of a dinosaur and volcanoes appear to be the same, but take a closer look. There are actually five differences. Can you see them?

That's unbelievable!



The Force was with this one.

Action figure breaks sale record

A 3.75-inch action figure of the *Star Wars* character Boba Fett recently went to auction and sold for a record-setting price of \$525,000. The rocket-firing bounty hunter figure was first prepared for release in 1979, but production was stopped before it reached store shelves. This hand-painted toy, one of two that remain in existence, has now become the world's most valuable vintage toy. An auction official said the action figure "became such a mythic icon that people worldwide know about it," so "we knew this one had a chance to enter the record books."



Chip bag from the 1970s unearthed

A man in Poole, England, has dug up a 49-year-old snack bag in his yard—and it looks surprisingly intact. Cenk Albayrak-Touye was digging in his backyard during a home renovation when he discovered the old Quavers potato chip bag. He said, "It was the yellow packaging that caught my eye." The date October 31, 1975, is printed on the bag, along with information about a competition that was running at the time to win a board game called Sporting SuperSix. Albayrak-Touye said, "It's like a little time capsule."



The Silex

Futuristic pianos are works of art

Designers at Edelweiss Pianos in the UK have reinvented the appearance of the instrument with their unusual creations. Edelweiss founder Mark Norman says, "We passionately believe that a piano doesn't have to be big and black with three legs." One model, called The Silex, is covered in gold leaf. Another is clear, so you can see all the mechanisms working inside it, and another is covered in half a million crystals. Owners can also select a self-playing setting, allowing them to sit back, relax, and let their piano play their chosen music all by itself.

Real or fake?



Do furry flyers get first class?

A luxury travel experience for dogs

When humans take to the skies, pets are often left behind or forced to travel in the cargo hold. But at BARK Air, they are the priority. On every flight, dogs fly first class. The animals don't have to be kept in a cage or on a leash, and they are treated as VIPs (very important pups) with special food, water, and even spa treatments. To make the experience stress-free, the pups also get calming treats and noise-canceling earmuffs. Is this a real airline, or are we barking up the wrong tree?*

*Really! BARK Air says it's the "first air travel experience designed specifically for dogs." Tickets cost up to \$8,000, and each plane fits 15 dogs and their humans.

The airline's first flight, from New York to California, was completely sold out.



Your turn

Editor's note

I was amazed when I read in this week's issue that Lucas Oil Stadium, home of the NFL's Indianapolis Colts, has been turned into a facility for the US Olympic Team Trials in swimming (p5).

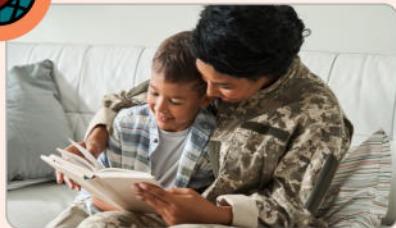
The ingenuity that went into this transformation is incredible, as is the photo we show with the story. I'll be excited to learn which of the 1,000 athletes competing at the Trials will represent the US at the Paris Olympics this summer. Also in this issue, I was fascinated by the discovery of the wreckage of a ship named the Quest off the coast of Canada (p3).

Famous explorer Ernest Shackleton died aboard the ship in 1922, and it sank on an expedition in 1962. More than 60 years later, it's been found mostly intact. Which story was most interesting to you this week? Let us know at hello@theweekjunior.com. And find out more about our ongoing Summer of Reading campaign in the red box below!

Andrea Barbalich
Editor-in-Chief



CHARITY OF THE WEEK



United Through Reading

This organization's mission is to help military families stay connected through reading. Active-duty members record themselves reading a book. The group then gets the recording to the service members' children, who can watch the video and read along from the same book. More than 3 million family members have benefited from the organization's work.

You can find out more at unitedthroughreading.org.



Becoming a published author

“I love reading *The Week Junior* and am passionate about writing. I self-published a fantasy fiction novel, *Protector Stones*, last summer. I spent about a year writing the story and felt like giving up many times when I encountered writer's block. With my parents' support, I learned to be resilient and was determined to achieve my goal of finishing the 54,000-word book. I hope my writing journey is an inspiration for young kids who want to become authors. Don't give up on your dream!”



Madeleine, 11, New York

Have you done something interesting or raised money for a cause you care about? Whatever you're up to, we want to hear about it at hello@theweekjunior.com.

RIDDLE OF THE WEEK

What's light as a feather but can only be held for a minute or so?

Your breath

SUMMER OF READING

Enter to win books!

This is the third issue of our Summer of Reading campaign! We hope you enjoy our interview with Author Ambassador Chris Colfer and a review of his new book *Roswell Johnson Saves the World!* (p23). Our reading challenge continues! Once you've finished any three books, go to tinyurl.com/TWJUS-ReadingChallenge with an adult to enter our sweepstakes. Four winners will win books, and one will win books and a video call with an Author Ambassador. For our list of "The 50 Books Kids Love Most," go to kids.theweekjunior.com/summerofreading.

Summer of Reading
The 50 Books KIDS LOVE MOST

The Week Junior surveyed 250 children from across the country about the books they enjoyed so much that they wanted to share them with other kids. We turned their suggestions into the one-of-a-kind list of titles featuring a wide variety of genres and characters. Find your favorite page-turners here!

FAVORITE FANTASY
ASTERIX AND OBELIX BY ALAIN COLIBRE
After his best friend Obelix disappears, Asterix the Gaul sets off on a quest to find him. Along the way, he meets a 10-year-old girl named Cleopatra, who gives him a special gift that helps him and his friends defeat an evil emperor.

GONE ON THE RUN
BY JEFF COLEMAN
Determined to leave his abusive home, a 12-year-old boy named Max takes his younger brother, Eli, on a secret road trip. They travel across the country, facing challenges and obstacles, but always stay close to each other.

THE LAST STAND: STORIES OF SURVIVAL
BY BRUNO BUCKLEY
The final book in the Academy for the Advancement of Knowledge series, this book features 100 short stories that teach kids how to survive in various situations, from natural disasters to man-made ones.

THE GIRL WHO DRANK THE MOON
BY KATIE MURRAY
A 10-year-old girl named Luna is adopted by a werewolf and must learn to live with him. She also learns that she has the same powers as her adoptive mother.

HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE
BY J.K. ROWLING
The fourth book in the Harry Potter series sees Harry return to Hogwarts for his fourth year. He must face challenges and obstacles, but also finds new friends and makes new enemies.

PERCY JACKSON AND THE OLYMPIANS: THE LIGHTNING THIEF
BY RICK RODGERS
The first book in the Percy Jackson & the Olympians series, this book follows Percy Jackson, a 12-year-old boy who is the son of Poseidon, the king of the sea. He must protect his friends and family from the evil Zeus, who wants to destroy the world.

UNLOCKED: KEEPERS OF THE KEYS
BY DUSTY WILSON
A 12-year-old boy named Max is a member of the mysterious "Keepers of the Keys" club. He must solve puzzles and riddles to keep the keys safe from the evil Mr. Glomax, who wants to use them to control the world.

THE LAST STAND: STORIES OF SURVIVAL
BY BRUNO BUCKLEY
The final book in the Academy for the Advancement of Knowledge series, this book features 100 short stories that teach kids how to survive in various situations, from natural disasters to man-made ones.

Kids' top 10 books!
The Week Junior asked 250 kids what their favorite books were. Here are the top 10 books they chose, plus a few more that made the list.

THE WEEK
Junior

IT'S YOUR TURN

Email your news, views, and photos to hello@theweekjunior.com.

Your turn



YOUR PHOTOS

We'd love to see pictures you've taken or pictures with you in them! Have an adult email them to us at hello@theweekjunior.com, along with anything you would like us to know about what's happening in the photo.



"I love reading *The Week Junior* when I wake up in the morning!" Kaiden, 10, Illinois

"We visited a Randy's Donuts store after reading about it in *The Week Junior*." Riya, 12, and Rishav, 10, California



"I love *The Week Junior*. It inspired me to make a newspaper at my elementary school."

Everett, 10, Tennessee

Teacher OF THE WEEK

Teacher's Name: **Mrs. Dierlam**
School: **Westridge Elementary School**

"Mrs. Dierlam is a great teacher. She talks to us kindly, and if someone needs help, she's always there for them. Mrs. Dierlam makes the school day fun. We do lots of projects, like writing poems and having a poetry café. When I say I can't do something, she says I may not be able to do it now, but I will be able to do it soon. I love going to school because of Mrs. Dierlam!"

Teddy, 7, Virginia

Nominate your teacher for Teacher of the Week!
Send your reason for the nomination, a photo of your teacher, and your school's name and address to hello@theweekjunior.com.

GETTY IMAGES ON LEFT PAGE: GETTY IMAGES



Puzzle answers (from page 26)

S	A	L	A	M	A	N	D	E	R
I	A	I	E	N	I				
G	A	S	L	E	N	D	E	R	
H	A	T	D		I				
T	O	G	A	L	W	A	Y	S	
N	M	E	N						
A	B	A	C	U	S	S	T	A	R
R	T	T	M	E	I				
C	U	P	C	A	K	E	N	A	G
H	I	N	N	N	N	N	H		
R	E	S	T	A	U	R	A	N	T

Code cracker

Peppa Pig

tongue

flamingo

bubble gum

Three for all

living room rug

Seeing Eye dog

country western song

Keyword answer: Alaska

5	4	4	5	3
2	1	3	4	1
5	4	5	3	2
2	3	3	1	2
1	4	2	5	1



Quiz answers (from page 30) **1 b** Pool **2 True** **3 a** Hell's Kitchen **4 Touch**
5 c 7 years **6 Two** **7 True** **8 c** San Antonio **9 False**. They are part of a friendly alien race.
10 c Diana Taurasi **11 Tar Beach** **12 b** "September" **13 False**. The study found that they became warm-blooded then. **14 The Quest** **15 a** Boba Fett

We want to hear from you! To have your letters, photos, nominations, recommendations, or ideas considered for inclusion in the magazine, please include your full name, age, and state with your submission. By emailing your submission to us, you give *The Week Junior* consent to publish it in the magazine and online. Please get your parent/guardian's permission before sending anything to us.



Quiz

How much of this week's news can you remember?

1 What was built for the US Olympic Trials at the Indianapolis Colts football stadium?

- a) Track b) Pool c) Tennis court

a b c

2 True or false? Groups of meerkats are referred to as mobs or gangs.

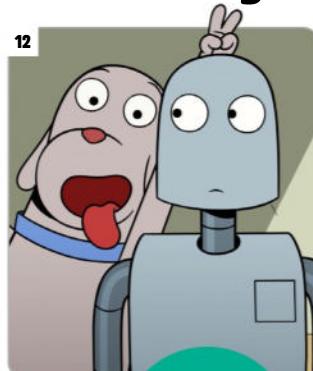
True False

3 Maleah Joi Moon recently won a Tony Award for her role in what Broadway show?

- a) Hell's Kitchen b) Stereophonic c) Suffragette

a b c

4 Haptic technology uses force, vibration, or movement to create an artificial sense of what?



5 At about what age do orangutans start sleeping exclusively in their own nests at night?

- a) 3 years b) 5 years c) 7 years

a b c

6 How many NBA championships did Bill Walton win?



7 True or false? Bugs Bunny is a playable character in the new fighting game MultiVersus.

True False

8 The exhibition *Huntopia: Bunnies, Birds & Butterflies* is on display in what Texas city?

- a) Dallas b) Houston c) San Antonio

a b c



12

ANSWERS
CAN BE
FOUND ON
PAGE 29.

9 True or false? In the book *Roswell Johnson Saves the World!*, Nerp and Bleep are part of an evil alien race.

True False

10 Which US women's basketball player is set to appear at the Olympics for a record sixth straight time?

- a) Alyssa Thomas b) Brittney Griner
c) Diana Taurasi

a b c

11 What is the name of the quilt by artist Faith Ringgold that became a Caldecott Honor Book?

12 Which Earth, Wind & Fire song appears in the new animated film *Robot Dreams*?

- a) "Let's Groove" b) "September"
c) "Shining Star"

a b c

13 True or false? A new study found that dinosaurs became cold-blooded about 183 million years ago.

True False

14 What was the name of the last ship sailed by famous explorer Ernest Shackleton?

15 An action figure of which *Star Wars* character sold at an auction for \$525,000?

- a) Boba Fett b) Chewbacca c) Darth Vader

a b c

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2024
Summer of
Reading
THE WEEK
Junior

Keep kids reading all summer long!

The Week Junior invites our readers to jump into a summer of super adventures through our Summer of Reading challenge.

Reading can take kids anywhere they can think of. They can be the hero of a thousand stories, this summer and beyond.

Bring along a friend, create a summer book club, or give a gift of *The Week Junior* and treat another child to a summer of reading adventures.

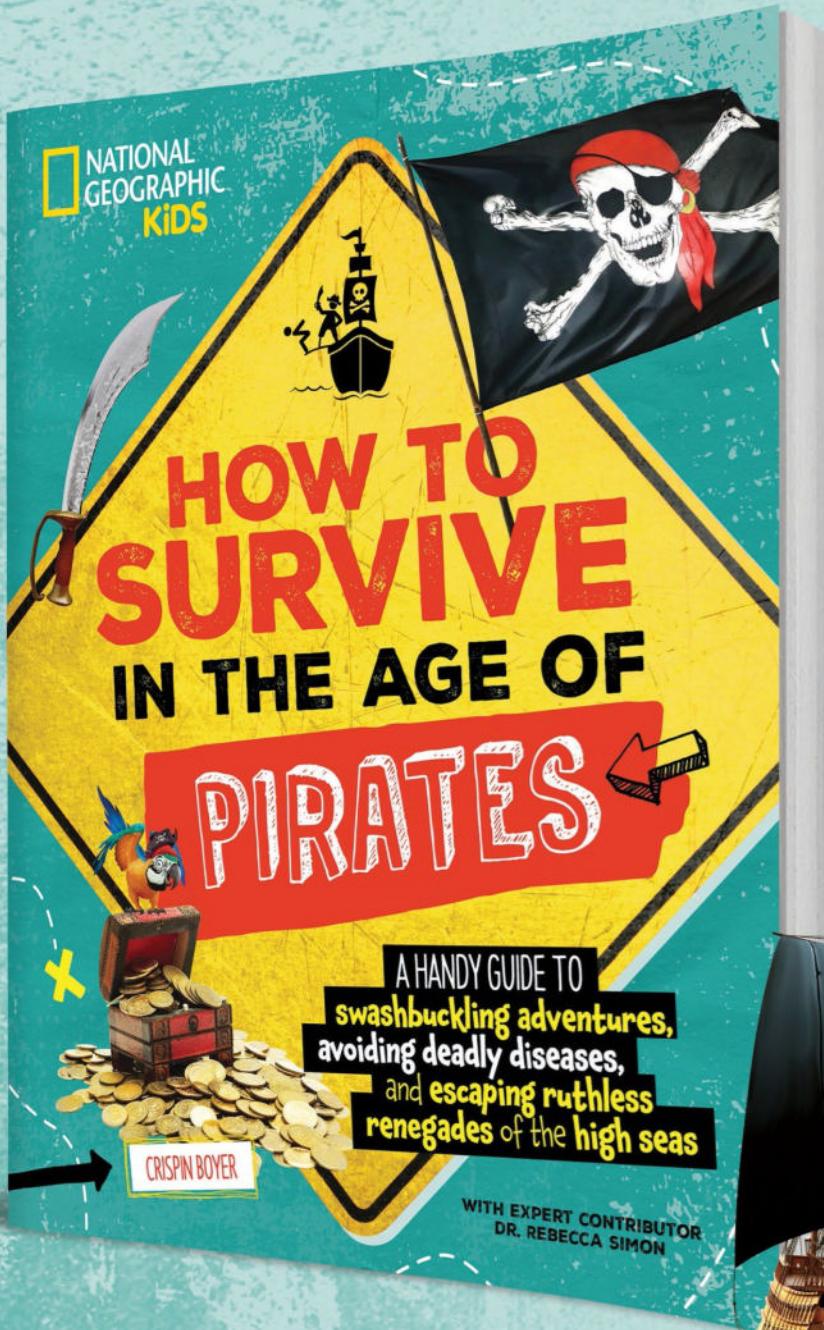
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ARRRR YOU READY?

... to sail the high seas during the golden age of pirates? Think you could survive?



Discover what all scallywags need to know:

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- ✗ What skills you'd need to outsmart them.
- ✗ How to talk, dress, and eat like a pirate.
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